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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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MEMORANDUM

November 10, 1980

TO: S/S-S - Mr. John H. Kelly

FROM: S/AR - George H. Aldrich GHA

SUBJECT: List of Issues for Transition Briefing Papers - Law of the Sea

In response to Peter Tarnoff's memorandum of November 7, we believe that the Law of the Sea should be included in the list of foreign policy and national security subjects which the incoming Administration will have to address during the 90 days following January 20, 1981.

The Conference Drafting Committee will meet in January and February, and the 10th and final substantive session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea will commence March 9 for a period of 6-7 weeks. If successful, this session will be followed by a signing ceremony in Caracas, Venezuela probably in the late summer or early autumn of 1981. We are now engaged in preparations for the substantive session, which is the culmination of an effort commenced in 1967. The Draft Convention is nearly completed with only a small number of important issues still to be negotiated. We are in the process of reviewing our positions on these issues, and the new Administration will want to be able to address the most significant of the remaining issues prior to March 9.

Drafted:D/LOS:GTaft:bs
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